MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

*Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!*
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# Nakba Day honors 77 years of Palestine's resistance

**By Betsey Piette**

On May 15, 1948, British imperialists withdrew from Palestine. They had assumed a mandate over the territories after defeating the Ottomans in World War I. The evening before, David Ben-Gurion, President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared Israel's statehood and independence.

The new Zionist state of Israel then began its brutal removal of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people from their rightful lands. Seventy-seven years later, the ongoing Nakba (the Catastrophe) has resulted in an estimated 4 million Palestinians being relegated to refugee status. At least 78% of their lands have been confiscated by a racist, settler-colonial occupation reminiscent of apartheid South Africa and the wholesale theft of the Indigenous Americas. This ongoing displacement, including the genocide in Gaza, continues today with beatings, massacres, starvation and jailings of Palestinians — with U.S. backing in the billions of dollars.

The Palestinian people continue to carry out a heroic resistance with strikes, protests, boycotts and an armed struggle inside Israel and in the Occupied Territories, especially Gaza and the West Bank. The Nakba was not just a singular event. Today we are still living with the effects of the Nakba.

This year, during the week of May 12-19, global protests commemorate the 77th anniversary of Nakba. (More on page 5.)

**Buffalo, May 15, 2025** WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

**Striking transit workers outside New York's Penn Station, New York City, May 16, 2025. See page 3.**

WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

**Philadelphia, May 15, 2025.** WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

## *In this issue*

◆ **In the U.S.**

Powerful strike wins contract for NJ Transit engineers. . . . . 3

◆ **Editorial**

Stop bosses' assault on Medicaid! . . . . . 4

◆ **Mundo Obrero**

Cuba no apoya el terrorismo . . . . . 6

## *Articles at workers.org*

◆ **In the U.S.**

Project Esther targets the anti-genocide movement . . . LINK
'The message for ICE is to get out of our city!' . . . . . LINK
40 years since Philadelphia city officials bomb MOVE . . LINK
The enduring legacy of Malcolm X . . . . . LINK
Mother's love knows no borders: multinational unity . . LINK
Mothers Day demonstration . . . . . LINK
May Day: Organizing beyond marches . . . . . LINK
Hoboken protest against 'Celebrate Israel' event . . . . . LINK
Seven months without justice for Robert Jones. . . . . LINK

◆ **Around the World**

UN: 14,000 infants in Gaza may die within 48 hours. . . . LINK
PFLP: Palestinians 'continue to stand firm and resist' . . . LINK
Yemeni forces escalate resistance to U.S. in Red Sea. . . . LINK
China's defense revolution . . . . . LINK
Ho Chi Minh ¡presente! . . . . . LINK
The hypocrisy of U.S. imperialists, Syrian reactionaries . . LINK

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Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

*Tear Down the Walls!* Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Teddie Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

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# *Join us in the fight for socialism!*

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

## If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

**National Office**
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

**Atlanta**
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

**Boston**
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpboston

**Buffalo, N.Y.**
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

**Cleveland**
cleveland@workers.org

**Durham, N.C.**
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

**Houston**
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

**Minnesota**
minnesota@workers.org

**Philadelphia**
P.O. Box 5634
Philadelphia, PA 19129
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

**Portland, Ore.**
portland@workers.org

**Salt Lake City**
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

**San Antonio**
sanantonio@workers.org

**Seattle**
206-218-4417
seattle@workers.org

**West Virginia**
WestVirginia@workers.org

# Powerful three-day strike wins new contract for New Jersey Transit engineers

**By Mary Owen**
**New York, N.Y.**

WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

**A solidarity delegation from Workers World Party joined other worker delegations on the picket line with striking NJT locomotive engineers and trainees outside New York's Penn Station, May 18.**

On May 18, Locomotive Engineers at New Jersey Transit (NJT) won a new tentative contract with an improved wage offer after a solid three-day strike that halted the vital passenger rail service statewide. A message on the union's strike website said it all: "Thank you members. We did it."

The NJT engineers were forced out on strike after midnight May 16 when transit bosses walked out of contract negotiations. This was the second round of bargaining with the Locomotive Engineers union, representing 450 engineers and trainees, after 87% of voting members overwhelmingly rejected a previous proposal.

According to the Locomotive Engineers union, "New Jersey Transit engineers have the lowest wage among all passenger engineers in the US." This has caused constant job turnover as trained and experienced engineers leave for better pay and benefits at other passenger railroads. In current talks, they demanded parity with fellow railway workers at Amtrak and mass transit in the Northeast, so they could stay at NJT long-term, making it safer and more reliable for passengers.

A statement on the union website explained: "There is no reasonable justification for the engineers of New Jersey Transit to be paid significantly less than their sisters and brothers who perform the exact same jobs, on the same tracks, operating into the same stations, even operating the very same trains, simply because they bring commuters from the other side of the Hudson River. All NJT engineers want is equal pay for equal work."

### Bosses feel economic pressure

NJT is the third largest commuter rail system in the U.S., transporting some 100,000 riders daily. This was the first NJT strike since a 34-day work stoppage in 1983. The value of locomotive engineers and trainees' labor to the capitalist economy quickly became apparent and exerted strong pressure on the bosses for an acceptable settlement.

NJT management estimated the strike could cost the agency $4 million a day. The Partnership for New York, speaking for big New York City capitalists, estimated a $6 million productivity loss for every hour that commuters were delayed getting to work. (NYT, May 18)

With no engineers to move passenger trains, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's feeble solution was to urge commuters to work from home. The National Mediation Board, which is responsible for keeping capitalist interstate commerce flowing, showed up to get contract talks moving again.

With costs piling up and a Monday, May 19 rush hour looming, the strike sent transit bosses scrambling to provide alternate service and quickly brought them back to the bargaining table over the May 17-18 weekend.

### Picket lines and solidarity

Picket lines went up on May 16 at locked NJT stations in Newark, Hoboken, Trenton and other New Jersey locations as well as in New York City. The Locomotive Engineers belong to the Teamsters rail conference, and other unions soon showed their support.

In Atlantic City, according to strikers, when the engineers picketed the popular NJT line from Philadelphia, trades workers at the Atlantic City Convention Center packed up their tools and walked out in solidarity. Freight engineers showed support by refusing to run their trains over NJT rails, effectively halting their freight deliveries in South Jersey.

At New York City's Penn Station, a steady stream of passersby stopped to express solidarity with the engineers on the first day of the strike. Among them was a supportive NJT clerk.

"They're trying to pay you three-years-ago wages, two years from now," she said. "That's not right. I'm with you!"

"Millions for Penthouse Views, Nothing for Train Crews" read one of the signs carried by workers in red union shirts outside Penn Station, referring to the money NJT spent on its new half-billion-dollar headquarters. Meanwhile, engineers had gone six years with no raises after working through the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020-21 during which they lost colleagues.

By the third day of the strike, the Locomotive Engineers were joined on the New York City picket line by solidarity delegations from the Transport Workers Union, Sesame Workers Union, teachers, Workers World Party and others.

Ultimately, however, it was the solid strike by tenacious engineers and trainees that won the new tentative agreement, which reportedly contains the wage increase they fought for and which they will soon vote on as they return to work March 20.

Tom Haas, the union's general chairman at NJ Transit stated, "While I won't get into the exact details of the deal reached, I will say that the only real issue was wages, and we were able to reach an agreement that boosts hourly pay beyond the proposal rejected by our members last month and beyond where we were when NJ Transit's managers walked away from the table Thursday evening." (Associated Press, May 19). ☐

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MUNDO OBRERO editorial

# Stop bosses' assault on Medicaid!

As the MAGA regime made its tidal wave of reactionary presidential decrees and legislative offensives in the first 100-plus days of Trump taking office, it was obvious that a major goal of the billionaires' government was to take more of the wealth the workers created and shift it to the rich, to the capitalists.

Some of this was hidden behind the long-term destruction of the environment when he opened up public lands and seabeds for corporate plunder and allowed for more polluting of Indigenous land.

Some of this ripoff was obscured by the false presentation of tariffs as a tax on other countries. In reality, the tariffs are a regressive "sales tax" imposed on U.S. workers who budget based on purchases of goods produced in countries that produce at lower prices.

Some of this ripoff was masked as "government efficiency," which dismantled government departments that at least partially service the needs of workers — like Veterans Affairs, Social Security, Medicare, Education, Labor, Occupational Safety and Health, etc.

If any cost was actually cut, it was immediately reversed by a bigger bloat in the military budget aimed at preparing a major war against China or Iran and continuing to arm Israel's genocide. Now the servants of the rich also plan to cut taxes on corporations and the billionaires who Trump lined up behind him during the election.

To anyone who recognized the aim of the MAGA plutocracy (and rejected the ruling-class propaganda that falsely scapegoated migrant workers or those already discriminated against), Trump's moves could be explained simply. He is taking more of the wealth created by the workers and handing it to the bosses. Robin Hood in reverse.

Now the Republicans in Congress have added to Trump's bill with a direct attack on the health of millions of people who, in this richest of countries, have the lowest incomes and least access to care. It's a bill that restricts the ability of these poorest members of the working class to get access to health care through Medicaid.

**May Day targets billionaire rule, Boston, May 1, 2025.** PHOTO: JESSICA TANG

According to the organizations that study these developments in detail — for example, the National Health Law Program — the House Republican proposal would slash over $7 billion from Medicaid over the next decade and cause 13.7 million people to lose health coverage. These rich House Republicans, who have only contempt for anyone below the poverty level, tried to disguise the cuts as "eligibility restrictions." That's BS.

This means making people work at least 80 hours a month to get Medicaid. And co-pay $35 to see a doctor. Nothing in the bill guarantees work will be offered, nor training, nor providing for extenuating circumstances that make such work impossible. And it includes enough obstacles when applying for Medicaid to discourage people from even trying.

Trump himself must have realized that such unpopular steps might cut into his ever narrower base. He has even said repeatedly in public that he does not want to touch Medicaid in any way.

Not that anyone can take something Trump says on any one day as worth the wind through his vocal chords. Even without this Medicaid cut, what he called his "one big, beautiful bill" was a ripoff of the workers and poor and a boon to the military-industrial complex. The latest news is that it is progressing through Congress.

The Democratic Party, while its Congressional members have voted against the "one big, beautiful bill," has failed to mobilize what would obviously be a majority of the population against this assault. Both the "Hands Off" demonstrations and those by unions on May Day made it clear that masses of people would protest in defense of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Most would also demonstrate against war.

It would be another crime, not only by Trump but by the two monopoly capitalist parties should they pass this attack on the working class. If it includes cuts to Medicaid, it means a direct attack on the most vulnerable part of the multinational and multigender working class, people able-bodied and with disabilities. A strong motto of the workers' movement has always been "An injury to one is an injury to all."

What is called for is a united struggle by all who understand that this assault is aimed at all that workers have won in the past. Once mobilized, this movement can go on to fight for more of what the bosses and billionaires steal from those who produce all the wealth of society. And fight against the wars their system drives them toward. ❐

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# Nakba Day: 77 years of Palestine's resistance

**Roundup**

The **Boston** Coalition For Palestine (BCFP) commemorated Nakba Day on May 15 with daylong Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) actions that targeted the Israeli consulate and the global transportation giant Maersk. Chanting "Evict Israeli war criminals!" BCFP protesters picketed the downtown Boston offices of the Israeli consulate during its morning open hours.

This nest of internationally "wanted" war criminals at 20 Park Plaza has been hidden, signless, for decades among other high-end tenants on upper floors of a plush Saunders Real Estate Group building, adjacent to the swank Park Plaza Hotel.

**Philadelphia, May 15, 2025.** WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

BCFP demonstrators regrouped by the hundreds in the afternoon outside the Kendall Square/MIT subway station in Cambridge to demand that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) end its collaboration with Danish international shipping giant Maersk.

Maersk has shipped millions of tons of military cargo to Israel in support of its brutal genocide in Palestine. Corporate executives of Maersk, ExxonMobil, Walmart and Uber Freight evacuated a MIT-sponsored conference in the Royal Sonesta Hotel when pro-Palestine supporters led by the Palestinian Youth Movement and Palestinian House of New England marched to the hotel and set up a militant picket line outside.

**Boston, May 15, 2025.** WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

Nakba actions in **Philadelphia** started in the early morning of May 15 with a banner drop over a bridge above a major city expressway. A late afternoon protest was held outside weapons manufacturer Day & Zimmermann corporate headquarters on Spring Garden Street where an estimated 100 demonstrators rallied to demand that the genocide profiteer be shut down!

The privately owned munitions company, with revenues of $2.7 billion in 2023, is the sole purveyor to Israel of three of the most frequently used munitions in the ongoing genocide in Gaza—M795 155mm tank shells, M107 high explosive projectiles and M830A1 Heat 120mm cartridges. The company has made billions in profits by selling Israel the ammunition used to kill and maim tens of thousands of Palestinian children and their families.

Organized by Philadelphia Students for Justice in Palestine and supported by several other groups, the rally called on people walking and driving by to tell the company that they are not welcome in this neighborhood or anywhere else in Philadelphia. As speakers continued to explain what was happening with the genocide in Gaza and Day & Zimmermann's role, more people came out to listen. One was a worker at a Dunkin Donuts next to the company's office building who expressed outrage upon learning what the company did.

In a demonstration on May 18, over 300 people marched from City Hall to the Art Museum steps.

On Nakba Day in **Buffalo, New York**, on May 15, dozens of community members came out in support of the Palestinian resistance and in opposition to Israeli Occupation Forces' ongoing genocide in Gaza. While the demonstration did bring on some opposition from drivers-by and the occasional heckler, the majority of drivers and pedestrians happily collected pamphlets or honked their horns in support. A number even joined in, despite having had no prior knowledge of the event.

The busy street corner action included demonstrators from Workers World Party, State University of New York Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (SUNY BDS) and University at Buffalo Young Democratic Socialists of America (UB YDSA). They came together to chant against the fascist Israeli regime and to remember the Nakba.

**Sante Fe, May 15, 2025.** S. HEDGECOKE

Local activists held a Red Line procession from the Santa Fe Plaza to a rally at the Railyard in **Santa Fe, New Mexico**, May 15, to protest Israeli genocide in occupied Palestine. Railyard pedestrians were leafletted with a full color brochure: "The Nakba Never Ended."

Local Indigenous and Palestinian speakers drew parallels between their experiences under settler colonialism. Speakers represented the Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine, Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine, the Olive Tree Campaign and Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA). Young Palestinians sang and led the crowd in chants, accompanied by a drummer.

The event, called by the Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine and Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine, ended with video displayed on the Railyard water tower after sunset.

*Betsey Piette, Steve Gillis, Joe Piette, Alex Q., Ellie Dorritie, Steve Kirshbaum and S. Hedgecoke contributed to this article and pictures.*

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# Una mentira repetida, no se convierte en verdad: Cuba no apoya el terrorismo

## *Declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores*

El gobierno de Estados Unidos vuelve a desacreditarse a sí mismo, al incluir injustamente a Cuba en la Lista de países que «no cooperan completamente con sus esfuerzos antiterroristas».

El Departamento de Estado, convierte una vez más la lucha contra el terrorismo internacional en un ejercicio político unilateral contra países que no se pliegan a sus intereses hegemónicos.

**La ayuda médica es la intervención internacional de Cuba socialista. Puerto Príncipe, Haití, 2010, tras el terremoto.**

Exactamente hace un año, cuando el anterior gobierno estadounidense excluyó a Cuba de la misma lista, reconoció el valor de la cooperación bilateral en materia de aplicación y cumplimiento de la ley, que incluye el enfrentamiento conjunto al terrorismo. Nada ha cambiado desde entonces en el ejemplar desempeño de Cuba en esta materia. Lo que cambió fue el gobierno en Estados Unidos y la intención de su nuevo Secretario de Estado de imponer la narrativa de que Cuba constituye una amenaza para esa nación, descarrilar las relaciones bilaterales y llevar a ambos países a escenarios de confrontación, indeseados para nuestros pueblos.

La lista no responde a evidencias concretas. Tampoco el nuevo gobierno presentó pruebas ni tuvo reparos en burlar y revertir, a pocas horas de la toma de posesión, el proceso de consultas entre agencias especializadas que condujo a la exclusión de Cuba del listado de países que supuestamente patrocinan el terrorismo.

Estos instrumentos responden al diseño de la política de «máxima presión» y guerra económica. Sus promotores conocen el daño que provocan a la población cubana y el efecto intimidatorio que desata contra todo Estado que aparezca afiliado con el terrorismo, con independencia de cuál sea la verdad.

El compromiso de Cuba con la actuación enérgica y la condena al terrorismo es absoluto e invariable. No responde a los caprichos del Secretario de Estado de turno en EE.UU. Cuba, víctima de actos terroristas, tiene un desempeño ejemplar en materia de lucha contra el terrorismo.

Contrariamente, el gobierno de Estados Unidos tolera o es cómplice de este flagelo. Terroristas confesos como Luis Posada Carriles y Orlando Bosch Ávila vivieron tranquilamente en la ciudad de Miami, protegidos por EE.UU. El gobierno cubano aún espera respuestas a la solicitud de información sobre la identidad del autor del atentado terrorista contra la Embajada de Cuba en septiembre de 2023, y las solicitudes sobre 61 personas y 19 organizaciones radicadas en ese país, presuntamente vinculadas con actos violentos y terroristas contra Cuba.

Nuestro país jamás ha participado en la organización, financiamiento o ejecución de actos terroristas contra país alguno, ni su territorio ha sido utilizado ni se utilizará para ello. No podría decirse lo mismo de Estados Unidos. ¡Respétese la verdad!

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
La Habana, 14 de mayo de 2025. ❑

**Manifestación en solidaridad con Cuba, Grand Central Station, Ciudad de Nueva York, 27 de octubre de 2024.**

MO FOTO: ELLEN CATALINOTTO

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